

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~enhancing~~ causing expression of a desired heterologous protein ~~at mucosal effector sites in mucosal cells~~ of a mammal, the method comprising placing a nucleotide sequence encoding the heterologous protein ~~to be expressed~~ under the control of a promoter ~~having the nucleotide sequence consisting of a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, the promoter being operatively interconnected to the nucleotide sequence encoding the heterologous protein,~~ in a recombinant gut-colonizing ~~microorganism, bacterium, orally administering the microorganism bacterium~~ to the mammal, and causing expression of the desired heterologous protein in mucosal cells of the mammal.

2-22. Cancelled.

23. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the desired heterologous protein induces a protective immune response against a pathogen in the mammal.

Claims 24-25. (Cancelled).

26. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the recombinant ~~gut-colonising microorganism~~ gut colonizing bacterium is a *Salmonella* spp.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the *Salmonella* spp. is *Salmonella typhimurium* or *Salmonella typhi*.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the recombinant gut-colonising microorganism is attenuated.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the pathogen is *Yersinia pestis*.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the desired protein comprises the F1-antigen of *Yersinia pestis*.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 23, wherein the recombinant gut-colonising ~~microorganism~~ bacterium is administered as a composition which further comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

32. (Cancelled).

33. (New) A method of inducing a serum or mucosal antibody response against *Yersinia pestis* comprising expressing an F1-antigen of *Yersinia pestis* in an attenuated recombinant *Salmonella* spp. by placing a nucleotide sequence encoding the F1-antigen under control of a promoter consisting of a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2, the promoter being operatively interconnected to the nucleotide sequence, and administering a dosage of the attenuated recombinant *Salmonella* spp. orally to a mammal.

34. (New) The method of Claim 33 wherein the *Salmonella* spp. is *Salmonella typhimurium* or *Salmonella typhi*.

35. (New) The method of Claim 33 wherein the attenuated recombinant *Salmonella* spp. is administered with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.